



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

April 20, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name.

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

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Third District

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Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## COMPREHENSIVE TRANSITION-AGED YOUTH HOUSING PLAN

On December 20, 2011, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) requested the authority to extend the current Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) and Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP+) contracts for one year. This item was amended by Supervisor Antonovich to direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), DCFS and the Probation Department (Probation), in partnership with the Self-Sufficiency Workgroup, to report back in 30 days and quarterly thereafter on a comprehensive transition-aged youth housing plan, incorporating the mandates of AB 12 and State realignment, and maximizing available funding through necessary changes, if any, to the THPP, THP+ and Transitional Housing Program-Plus Foster Care (THP+FC) programs. The 30-day report was submitted to your Board on January 20, 2012; this is the first quarterly report.

In January 2012, the Auditor-Controller (A-C) reviewed DCFS' and Probation's joint Youth Development Services (YDS) program and released its findings on the contract and case management of the THPP, THP, and THP+ housing programs. The A-C reported that, overall, the contractors who were reviewed are not ensuring that participants meet program requirements, and that the monitoring of these contractors to ensure their compliance is not being done accurately or consistently. The A-C noted concerns with contractor performance targets largely being unmet, inconsistent

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documentation of participant income and savings contributions and disbursements which resulted in over and under payments, instances of paperwork needed to meet Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements not being completed, apartments used for participants that had not been approved by Community Care Licensing Division, inaccurate information being reported in progress reports to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), inconsistent participant discharge practices, and rent money being paid for apartments with lengthy vacancies. In reference to THP+, the A-C concluded that, "it does not appear the program is meeting the goal of ensuring that the participants leave the program ready to be independent."

In response to these findings, DCFS management transferred the THP program accounting oversight responsibilities to its Central Finance section to ensure tighter fiscal controls. YDS management instituted changes in their contract oversight including: 1) Dedicating specific staff to conduct technical reviews for all YDS contracts (Housing and ILP); 2) Developing and implementing a standardized technical review instrument for all contractors; 3) Training all contract monitoring staff on conducting on-site technical reviews and the correction plan planning process (notice, provider response and follow-up reviews); and 4) Establishing a schedule of technical reviews (and any needed follow-ups) for each contract year for every provider.

Both DCFS and Probation have also been pursuing the possibility of transferring the THP, THP+ and THPP contract administration responsibilities over to LAHSA because of their ability to provide greater contract monitoring and accountability. DCFS is researching the feasibility of moving both THPP and THP+ programs, as there may be State and Federal barriers that could prevent such a move. If it is possible, LAHSA is very open to the idea, and a meeting with HUD representatives is being scheduled to gauge their support. If this were to happen, DCFS, Probation and LAHSA would develop a plan to ensure a smooth transition for current program participants.

The State's All County Letter which will stipulate how the THP+FC program should operate for youth who remain in care after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, per AB 12, has not yet been released. This delay, which is due to State officials and advocates continuing to debate the program details, presents an opportunity for Los Angeles County and others to offer recommendations that may ultimately help shape this new transitional housing program. At the request of the Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families, a meeting was held of local transitional housing experts, advocates, departmental representatives and other key stakeholders to develop a set of program recommendations which will be shared with State officials overseeing AB 12 implementation.

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These efforts are moving us closer to building the type of foundation necessary for creating a proper continuum of housing resources for youth aging out of the system. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Trish Ploehn at (213) 974-4532 or via e-mail at [tploehn@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:tploehn@ceo.lacounty.gov).

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CDM:ym

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
Children and Family Services  
Probation  
Self-Sufficiency Workgroup

Comprehensive TAY Housing Plan Board Memo\_April 2012